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Is Lyndon LaRouche using *your name?*

How the LaRouchians masquerade as journalists to gain information

by PATRICIA LYNCH

Last fall, presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., suffered a double defeat at the hands of a federal jury in Alexandria, Virginia. His \$150 million libel suit against NBC — which had aired two reports that charged, among other things, that LaRouche was the leader of a violence-prone, anti-Semitic cult that smeared its opponents and sued its critics — was rejected. Perhaps more significant, the jury ordered LaRouche to pay \$3 million to NBC on the network's counterclaim that LaRouche and his followers had played "dirty tricks" on the network and had interfered with its newsgathering activities by, for example, impersonating NBC reporters and producers. While this was by no means the first time that the LaRouchians, as his followers are commonly called, had been detected posing as reporters and members of TV camera crews, it was the first time that a jury had weighed the evidence regarding such activities and imposed punitive damages on LaRouche. (LaRouche has appealed the libel verdict in *LaRouche v. NBC*, and has moved to set aside the counterclaim.)

As I testified at the trial, my first encounter with LaRouchian dirty tricks occurred on January 30, 1984. As the producer of a report on LaRouche for NBC's now-defunct *First Camera* program, I was filming LaRouche's residence in Leesburg, Virginia. While correspondent Mark Nykanen was doing a "stand up," my associate producer, Kathleen Paterno, and I saw one of LaRouche's security guards reach through the window of our crew car, remove our work schedule from the dashboard, read it, return it, then stroll away. Later that afternoon, back in Washington, Paterno was telephoned by a man representing himself as an aide of New York Senator Daniel P. Moynihan,

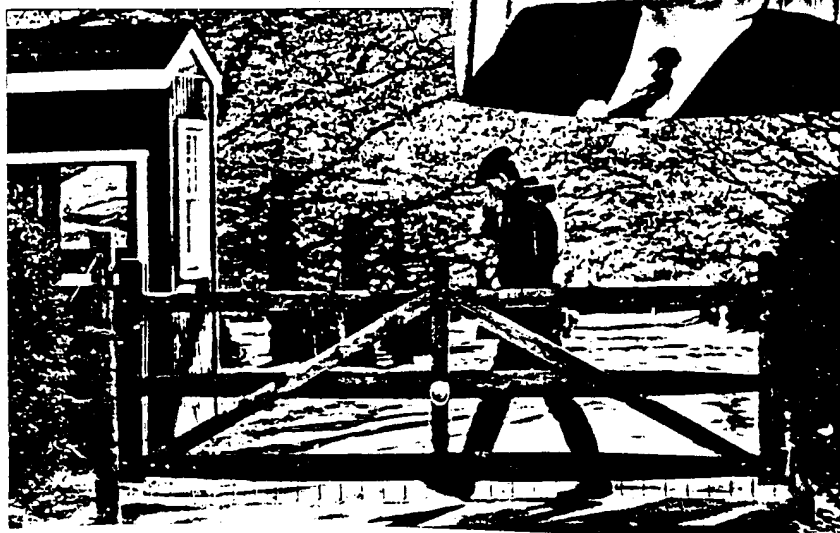
whom we were scheduled to interview at 5:00 P.M. The caller said that the senator was having "second thoughts" about doing the interview because he and his family had been subjected to harassment by LaRouchians in the past. Half an hour later the "aide" called back, raising questions about how thorough our report would be. Had we talked to the FBI, the CIA, the IRS? Paterno and I assured him that we had. After this call, Paterno looked worried. The man we had just spoken to, she said, sounded very different from the one with whom she had set up the appointment. I called Senator Moynihan's office and, to my surprise, learned that the interview had been cancelled by someone purporting to be from NBC.

The interview was rescheduled for 5:30 P.M. When I and my associates arrived at Moynihan's office, the senator

showed me a press release that had just arrived from LaRouche's political organization, the National Democratic Policy Committee. It stated: "Fat [sic] Lynch to interview Moynihan today" — information that could only have been obtained from the work schedule perused by the security guard. (The videotape of this interview was admitted into evidence at the Virginia trial and portions of it were played for the jury.)

After the interview I called an NBC lawyer in New York. *NBC Nightly News* was airing a report that evening on LaRouche and the lawyers were facing problems of their own. They had received a hand-delivered letter from LaRouche's lawyer in Boston threatening legal action if the network aired its segment that night and went ahead with its plan to air the longer report I was preparing, which was scheduled to be

Leader LaRouche and guarded estate:
LaRouche, shown here speaking in a 1982 NBC interview, lives in Leesburg, Virginia. Guards are reportedly armed; security on the estate is strict.



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